

REMARKS

Introductory Remarks

As a preliminary matter, applicant, through his attorneys, hereby affirms election of claims 1-42 for group I, Figs. 1-10 and 12-15, with traverse, as required by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Claims 43-46 (group II, Fig. 11) are directed to a non-elected species.

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

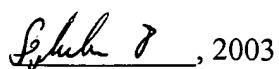
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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, 2003

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